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BULLETIN OF THE MASSACHUSETTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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50TH ANNIVERSARY

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LOOKING BACKWARD:

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOCIETY

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#### HISTORY OF THE CAPE COD CHAPTER

Alice Dobbryn, Barbara Waters, Lesley Sage and Marilyn Crary

Before the Cape Cod Chapter was formed in 1963, a Sippican group, which included some Cape Cod people, met in Marion, Mass. Frank Kremp lived in Marion and along with Viggo Petersen founded the Sippican Chapter. When the Sippican Chapter moved its headquarters to the New Bedford Whaling Museum, the Cape Cod members stopped going. There is one record of a July 11, 1940 meeting to form a Cape Cod Chapter in New Bedford, but no report of additional meetings in the MAS archives.

#### The Cape Cod Chapter:

In the winter of 1963 a small group of people met and formed the Cape Cod Chapter of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society. The meeting place was the Harwich Recreation Building and the attendees came in response to an item in the Cape Cod Times. At this first meeting William Marion was elected Director; Ruth Brown, Secretary; and Alice Dobbryn, Treasurer.

John Gaston of Osterville was a very active early member. He found and established the first chapter dig in Cotuit, the Baxter Neck area. Several artifacts were found. John also located that same year a site in South Orleans called the Peggy Ford Site. He assigned squares and again several artifacts were found, most in a stream on the property. A new site on Arey's Pond in South Orleans was found with the help of Frank Kremp. A few surface artifacts were found, but the high visibility of the area made it a poor choice for an excavation. All the sites described here had been extensively potholed, a common problem with many sites on Cape Cod.

Ernie Tesson, another early member, located a shell midden called the Daniel's Site, in Wellfleet. Squares were allocated, but nearby summer cottages made digging a public matter and this site was closed.

In 1974 Doug Brunell, a former president of the Chapter, made arrangements for the Chapter to excavate the Chatham RCA Site. Doug had worked for RCA and was able to arrange a contract with the owners of the land. Guy Mellgren was elected dig director. Guy had many years' experience with excavations. With help from John Gaston the Chapter cleared an area and laid out squares. This excavation was carried on for three years and was the impetus to attract many new members. At the end, Marie Eteson, Marilyn Crary, and Micky Chase studied the materials and wrote a report that appeared in the April 1978 issue of the Bulletin of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society (Eteson, Crary and Chase 1978). It was the Cape Cod Chapter's first real published report. Among the important artifacts was a deer bone pendant.



During the summer of 1979, Jim Cahoon and Beth Nelson directed a survey excavation at the Achilles Site in Chatham.

Marie Eteson analysed artifacts from the Hayward's Portanimicut Site and published her results in the April 1982 Bulletin of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society (Eteson 1982). Thermoluminescent dating of a single potsherd from this site resulted in a TL Date of  $434.7 \pm 43$  years BP (1982) and was reported in the October 1985 Bulletin (Eteson 1985).

In 1980 John Gaston arranged with Colonel Butler permission for the Chapter to excavate on his land in Osterville. Marie Eteson was dig director for Phase I and George Stillson for Phase II. Analysis of artifacts and soil became part of the Chapter's efforts after the suspension of fieldwork. Two carbon dates have been obtained from charcoal samples:  $855 \pm 135$  yrs BP and  $905 \pm 135$  yrs BP.

An Artifact Collections Survey was initiated by Marie Eteson in 1980 and chapter members joined in the analysis of artifacts from personal collections of local Cape Codders. A presentation of this endeavor was made at the MAS annual meeting in October 1980 by Marie Eteson, Marilyn Crary and Barbara Waters (with a special critique contributed by Lesley Sage).

In 1981 one of our members, Barbara S. Waters, became Director of the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History on 6A in Brewster. She encouraged the Chapter to assist in cataloging the Museum's extensive Rennie Collection. Members also assisted with the Ryder's Cove field class conducted and reported on by Museum Staff Archaeologist Fred Dunford (Dunford 1986).

Chapter members have been among volunteers for a number of projects conducted by professional archaeologists: the Oak Ridge mitigation study for the Town of Orleans by Lenny Loparto, George Stillson and Fred Dunford in collaboration with the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History; the Bass River field survey for the Dennis Historical Society by George Stillson (see pottery discussion [Stillson 1986]); a mitigation study by the National Park Service archaeologists at Coast Guard Beach in Eastham (McManamon 1984).

After many years of meeting at the Harwich Recreation Building, in 1983 the Chapter removed to the Museum in Brewster where an archaeological data base has been initiated (Pyle 1988), and where we continue our schedule of lectures and workshops on the first Saturday of the month from October to May.

Two original Chapter members are still in the organization: Dr. Ruth Brown of Chatham and Alice Dobbyn of Chatham, who was Treasurer for twenty years.

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PRESIDENTS OF THE SOCIETY, 1939-1989

Maurice Robbins 1939-1942  
Leaman F. Hallett 1942-1946  
W. Elmer Ekblaw 1946-1948  
Benjamin L. Smith 1948-1951  
Howard C. Mandell 1951-1954  
Willard C. Whiting 1954-1956  
Walter A. Vossberg 1956-1958  
Eugene C. Winter, Jr. 1958-1960  
Viggo C. Petersen 1960-1962  
Arthur C. Lord 1962-1964  
Harold F. Nye 1964-1966

Donald C. Wilder 1966-1968  
William B. Brierly 1968-1969  
Guy Mellgren 1969-1971  
Ralph S. Bates 1971-1973  
Josephine Laugelli 1973-1976  
Carol Barnes 1976-1978  
George R. Horner 1978-1981  
Curtiss R. Hoffman 1981-1984  
Elizabeth A. Little 1984-1986  
Michael Touloumtzis 1986-1988  
Ruth Warfield 1988-



## THE HISTORY OF THE COHANNET CHAPTER

Philip Brady

Today's Cohannet Chapter is the descendant of the Warren King Moorehead Chapter of Attleboro that was formed about 1940, shortly after the Massachusetts Archaeological Society was established in 1939, and disbanded about 1953 (Tufts 1949). At that time the Moorehead Chapter was conducting a dig at Titicut under the direction of Maurice Robbins (Robbins 1967). Following dissension over field policy, some ten to twelve members resigned and formed Cohannet Chapter on March 1, 1952.

Cohannet Chapter members immediately started their well-known work at the Middleborough Wapanucket Site, which they continued for thirty-two years (Robbins 1968, 1980). Shortly after Cohannet Chapter began work at Wapanucket, the members asked Dr. Robbins to join them as director, and he remains a member of the chapter to this day.

Chapter members also conducted field work at the Fort Hill Site across the Taunton River from Titicut (Dodge 1953; Taylor 1976), working alternate weekends at Wapanucket and at the Fort Hill Site. Over the years while work was being conducted at Wapanucket, individual chapter members also participated in field work at Bear Swamp I and II (Staples and Athearn 1969; Barnes 1972), at Peace Haven (Athearn, Staples & Barnes 1980), at Read Farm, and at the Hawes Site (a salvage operation) (Lord 1962; Robbins 1963), as well as at a number of other well-known sites.

As the resident chapter in the Attleboro area, Cohannet members since 1952 were largely responsible for maintaining Bronson Museum. Chapter members built the displays and actively managed the museum over the many years of its existence.

Since completing their work at Wap 8 five years ago, Cohannet members conducted field work for one season at the Nemasket Site (Pratt Farm), now the property of the Town of Middleborough; at the Dyer Site in Rehoboth for one season; and for the past three years members have been actively working at the Tobey Site in Rehoboth.

A Carbon-14 age was recently obtained for the Tobey Site, located on the Palmer River drainage, using charcoal from a fire-pit. The sample yielded an age of  $4710 \pm 60$  years before 1950 (Beta-27934). Field and laboratory work continues on this site under the direction of Peter Pagoulatos, currently teaching at Providence and Rhode Island Colleges. Material to form the basis of a preliminary report on the Tobey Site is now being developed.

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Cohannet Chapter in the field. Duane Gage and daughter Kristen working at the Tobey Site, Rehoboth, with Brady Fitts, dig director, in background (Philip Brady photograph).



## W. ELMER EKBLAW CHAPTER

Mary Haaker

Inspired by the organizational meetings of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society, interested persons from the central Massachusetts area banded together to organize a group that would be devoted to Indian lore and archaeology. The first meeting of the new organization was held at the Worcester Historical Museum in February of 1940 with Mr. C. C. Ferguson of Millbury presiding. The suggestion by Mr. W. Elmer Ekblaw that the group be known as the Nipmuc Chapter was unanimously accepted by the membership and so voted at the December 1940 meeting. The principal activities of the chapter were to be centered around Nipmuc territory.

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, all activities of the chapter were suspended for the duration of the war. The chapter reorganized in September of 1945, and in March of the following year, members voted to petition the Massachusetts Archaeological Society for formal recognition as the Nipmuc Chapter. This was subsequently granted at the April meeting of the Society.

On June 8, 1946, Nipmuc members began their first field project - excavation of the Bummet Brook site or Chickering's Pond in North Grafton, under the supervision of the Warren K. Moorehead Chapter from Attleboro (Nipmuc Chapter Minutes June 8, 1946).

Following the death of Dr. Ekblaw in 1949, the membership voted in July of 1950 to adopt the name W. Elmer Ekblaw Chapter in tribute to their charter member (Nipmuc Chapter Minutes July 11, 1950).

Throughout the next two decades, a small but dedicated group continued to hold monthly meetings in the homes of various members. Activities included field trips to local sites and individual research on Indian lore and implements, which was shared at chapter meetings. Members also participated in excavations at a number of chapter-sponsored as well as private sites including the Quaboag site in Brookfield, Tobin's Beach, the Wayland Site, Boston Hill Site in Westboro, the site of the old soapstone quarry in Millbury and the Oakholm site in Brookfield (Nipmuc Chapter Minutes May 21, 1947; Ekblaw Chapter Minutes June 19, 1951, January 6, 1953, July 14, 1955, November 7, 1957, July 14, 1963).

In the early 1970's, after encountering difficulties in securing permission for the group to excavate, the chapter turned its attention to a bibliography of Indian sites in the Worcester County area (Ekblaw Chapter Minutes April 6, 1972). Chapter Chairwoman Lillian Harding noted in her 1975 Report to the Annual Meeting of the MAS that the Ekblaw Chapter had accomplished its goals of increasing membership, updating its by-laws, and the revision and publication of dig rules. From 1975 through 1977, Ekblaw Chapter members participated in excavations at the Hocomonco #3 site in Westboro, under the supervision of David Cohen. In the fall of 1977, Dr. Curtiss Hoffman, who was conducting field schools through Clark University at the Charlestown Meadows site, then owned by Lilian Harding, extended an invitation to Ekblaw members to join them (Ekblaw Chapter Minutes Oct. 1, 1977).

In 1978, the chapter undertook two very ambitious projects - the publication of the W. Elmer Ekblaw Archaeological Quarterly, and active participation in the Charlestown



Meadows project. Ekblaw worked jointly with members of the Clark University field team through 1980. The work at Charlestown Meadows under Dr. Hoffman continued until the 1982 season, producing a quantity of artifacts and data which has contributed greatly to our knowledge and understanding of Westboro's prehistory (Hoffman 1981, 1983).

Throughout the 1980's, Ekblaw Chapter has continued its work on the Westboro Archaeological Survey, Training and Excavation project begun in 1982 (Hoffman 1983, 1984). Excavation at Cedar Swamp has proceeded in recent years under the aegis of the Westboro Historical Commission. In the spring of 1986, the Chapter was completing work at two sites in Cedar Swamp when the opportunity arose to conduct a salvage operation on the previously excavated Charlestown Meadows site. Twenty tons of soil from 119 features were removed in the fall of 1986. Using a new process of flotation devised by Chapter members Charles Bartels and Roy Usher (Bartels 1989), floating and cataloging of material continued throughout the spring and summer of 1987.

A National Register Nomination submitted for the entire Cedar Swamp complex has not only been brought to a satisfactory conclusion, but has been cited as a model for future archaeological nominations.

Although a wealth of information has been recovered (see references below), including several new C-14 dates for the Westboro area, many new and challenging questions have been raised. In the years to come, the Ekblaw Chapter plans to continue its commitment to educate the general public through its sponsorship of lectures, slide presentations, exhibits field schools and courses in archaeology. The excavation and preservation of endangered sites in the Westboro area will continue to be of vital concern.

Feature #7,  
Cedar Swamp-4  
Site, excavated  
by Ekblaw  
Chapter members  
in 1986, →  
consisted of a  
stone hearth  
with a Madison  
point in situ.  
Charcoal yielded  
a radiocarbon  
date of  $390 \pm 80$   
B.P. (Beta-19921)  
(photo courtesy  
of Curtiss  
Hoffman).





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## MASSASOIT CHAPTER

Russell Holmes

The history of the Massasoit Chapter, originally designated as Group 7, began in February of 1940 when District Chairman Jesse Brewer invited a number of interested persons from the local area to attend a gathering at his home in Plymouth. Fourteen persons with three guests responded to that call to hear Maurice Robbins, President of the Southern District, give a short talk on the goals of the newly formed "Society" (see also Sherman 1949). Thus was begun the practice of meeting at the homes of chapter members on a monthly basis, a practice still carried on by the Plymouth group.

Under the guidance of Maurice Robbins and Doug Byers, a chapter excavation at Nook Farm in the Plymouth area was begun the following summer (1940) on property owned by Mr. R. B. Avery (Whiting and Brewer 1946; Whiting 1949; Sherman 1951). There followed a number of explorations and "digs" in the Plymouth-Carver-Kingston-Duxbury area. Many of the more important recoveries from the Powers Shell Heap and Swan Hold site were reported in the M.A.S. Bulletin, supported by the excellent illustrations of William Fowler of the Bronson Museum (Sherman 1948; Fowler 1952, 1970; Holmes 1963; Bielski 1964).

Highlights of the chapter include discovery of one of the few copper axes recovered in southern New England at the Powers Shell Heap Site in Kingston (Sherman 1960); the excavation of a ceremonial site at the Swan Hold Site in Carver (Sautter 1967); the delivery of an illustrated report on the Heritage Hills Site in Plymouth to a semi-annual M.A.S. meeting in 1975; an illustrated site report now being prepared of a coastal shell midden excavation in Duxbury; and completion of a salvage excavation of an extensive Archaic - Woodland site in Kingston (presented as a visual site report to the semi-annual M.A.S. gathering in 1987).

Because of the location of the chapter, past and present research projects and excavations have been confined mainly to coastal plain sites. Our future goal will be to continue this research into the prehistoric adaptability to saltwater food resources supplemented with a variety of mammal food resources, and the availability of desirable habitation areas.

The vanguard of our chapter has consisted of: Jesse Brewer, Charles Sherman, Charles Sanderson, Adrian Whiting, Willard Whiting, William Whiting, Richard Bent, Edward Borgatti, Lillian Chauvin, Andrew Dietlin, Ralston Burgess, Edward Bielski, Elizabeth Hanelt, Russell Holmes, Judith Facchini, Dennis Martin, and Bernard Otto.

The enthusiasm of the first members of the Massasoit Chapter is illustrated by the following from the minutes of the January (!) 1943 meeting: "Due to the ban on gasoline, some of the members enjoyed (?) a two-mile walk to the chapter meeting - others came by bus." We take pride in the fact that this kind of enthusiasm still exists in our group - one member driving 23 miles regularly to participate in chapter "digs" and to attend our meetings.



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Photograph of, L to R, Russell Holmes, Dennis Martin, and Robert Po in 1979 at the Howland Shell Midden Site, Duxbury, Mass. Russell has uncovered a small stone hearth and Martin and Po are observing the activity (Bernard Otto photograph).





## NORTH RIVER CHAPTER HISTORY

Curtiss Hoffman

The North River Chapter was founded in the winter of 1984 to assist in the implementation of the North River Archaeological Project, which was designed as a long-term study of the human ecology of a single drainage system in Eastern Massachusetts.

The North River drainage includes portions of the towns of Scituate, Marshfield, Norwell, Hanover, Pembroke, Duxbury, Hanson, Rockland and Halifax. During the first phase of the project, the goal will be to determine the relationship of human settlement patterns to environmental parameters. This is to be accomplished by setting up a series of seven transects running roughly from the north watershed (drainage boundary) to the south watershed. Within these one kilometer wide transects, excavation units will be selected through a combination of judgmental and random factors, to obtain a relatively representative sample of sites. Results of these test pits will be correlated with environmental types to determine whether observable relationships can be established over the past 11,000 years of human habitation. Once the testing of all seven transects is completed, the second phase will allow for more intensive investigation of specific locations.

Interest in archaeology in the North River drainage dates to the early years of the M.A.S. (Whiting 1950; Scothorne 1968, 1970; Fowler 1976). Extensive salvage work was performed in the drainage by members of the Eastern Massachusetts Archaeological and Geological Association during the 1970's and early 1980's. Bill Hallaren and Bill Bowman sparked interest in a full-scale study of the drainage at an M.A.S. annual meeting in 1982; out of this, the North River Archaeological Project and the North River Chapter were formed. Hallaren has recently (1988) published many of the findings of his group, and serves as co-chair of the Chapter's research committee.

The chapter's headquarters has been the South Shore Natural Science Center in Norwell; meetings have been held on the second Monday of each month from September through May, with guest speakers and programs. David Magnussen was the first Chair, with Mary Johnson as Vice-Chair and Valerie Thomas as Secretary. The Chapter submitted its request for a Charter to the M.A.S. Board of Trustees in April of 1984, and received its charter in June of that year.

During its first year of operation, the Chapter undertook fieldwork at the Chappa Challa site in Duxbury under the direction of Mary Johnson. It also catalogued the prehistoric collections of the Scituate Historical Society. Some work was done by Chapter members along Transect III in Scituate. During the winter of 1984-85, mini-courses in historic archaeology and New England prehistory were offered by the Chapter at the Science Center. A videotape on the North River Project was completed; it won first prize in a regional competition.

The Chapter continued to work at Chappa Challa through June of 1985; Chapter members also assisted Valerie Thomas at the Sunnyside site (historic) in Hull. Some Chapter members assisted in excavations in Transect V in Pembroke in 1986 with Curt Hoffman's field school, and also served as supervisors of 7th and 9th grade students from Hanover, Norwell and Pembroke doing field work under a Massachusetts Council for the



Arts and Humanities grant administered by the South Shore Natural Science Center. During this period, chapter member Bill Moody did salvage on a site in Pembroke (Moody 1987). Reports of the work on the transects has been issued in the form of annual interim reports published by the South Shore Natural Science Center (Hoffman 1986, 1987, 1989).

Due to declining membership in both North River and South Shore Chapters in 1986, the two groups agreed to reorganize into a cooperative effort. Monthly meetings were held jointly, alternating between locations in the South Shore area and the Norwell Science Center; for 1987-88 these were all held in Norwell. Officers were elected jointly starting in 1987, and dues were collected jointly starting in 1988.

The Chapter has since the Fall of 1987 become involved in the excavation of the Plymouth Street site in Bridgewater, under the direction of Curt Hoffman and Bill Hallaren. Seventh grade classes from Hanover and Hanson, ninth grade classes from Pembroke and Kingston, and a sixth grade class from Cambridge have been introduced to archaeology at this site. The Chapter has a cooperative relationship with the landowner which will allow for several years of fieldwork prior to the development of the property.

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## HISTORY OF THE NORWOTTUCK CHAPTER

Jane A. McGahan

The Norwottuck Chapter of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society was founded in 1967 by several graduate students from the Department of Anthropology of the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, Massachusetts. Members included both students and local residents from the Connecticut River valley. A charter from the M.A.S. was granted March 10, 1967. Meetings were first held at the University of Massachusetts.

The name of the Chapter, "Norwottuck," is the name/place of the Native Americans who lived in the vicinity of present day Northampton, Massachusetts at the time of contact.

By 1969 most of the original graduate student members of the Chapter had graduated. Many of the other members wished to continue as a Chapter, and as most of them lived north in the Greenfield area, the meetings were shifted to Greenfield, Massachusetts. Some of these original members included Janice Weeks, Ed DeRose, Josephine and Donald Buckley, Bill Colby, Leonard Day and Lionel Girard.

Members of the Chapter have worked on several important sites in Western Massachusetts. The first large sites worked on were the Casley and Stemple sites in Gill, Massachusetts. That work was followed by the excavation of the W.M.E.C.O. site also in Gill. All of these sites are now part of the Riverside Archaeological District, the second archaeological district in New England.

Through the efforts of the Norwottuck Chapter and particularly Janice Weeks, the University of Massachusetts Anthropology Department was given its first grant ever to aid an excavation. This grant was given by Northeast Utilities for excavations at the W.M.E.C.O. site under the direction of Peter Thomas of the department (Thomas 1980). Besides the multi-component W.M.E.C.O. site with over 50,000 artifacts, the Chapter also assisted Peter Thomas on a survey of the Montague Plains, which was a potential power plant site for Northeast Utilities' Western Massachusetts Electric Company, and the Fort Hill site in Hinsdale, New Hampshire.

More recent sites worked on by the Chapter include the Blaine site in Deerfield, Massachusetts (McGahan 1983), and the Landfill site in Greenfield, Massachusetts (Hasenstab n.d). These sites were excavated with assistance and direction from graduate students from the University of Massachusetts. The Chapter is pleased to have a continuous good relationship with the University, particularly since its Anthropology Department is one of the most highly regarded in the country. Members have also helped on Mary Lou Curran's Paleo-Indian site in Swanzey, New Hampshire (Curran 1984) and at an historical archaeological excavation of Fort Shirley in Heath, Massachusetts by Michael Coe of Yale.

Special finds from sites excavated by the Chapter include the first steatite tempered pottery found north of New York City at the Stemple site (Weeks 1971) and the first corn in the Massachusetts section of the Connecticut River Valley, also at the Stemple site (Garman 1988). And, finally, the Chapter was instrumental in the designation of the Riverside Archaeological District (Massachusetts Historical Commission 1975).



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## SHAWKEMO CHAPTER

Elizabeth A. Little

In 1939, Edward Brooks and Ripley Bullen of the nascent Massachusetts Archaeological Society, organized Society excavations at Squam Pond, Herrecater Swamp, and the Hughes Site, Nantucket, and published reports of their work in the Bulletin of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society (Brooks 1939, 1941; Bullen and Brooks 1947, 1948, 1949). In addition to controlled excavations, documented surface collecting began at the island on a large scale. Dirt roads, beaches and other sites of erosion or construction were monitored for surface artifacts, which were recorded with provenience. Alfred F. and Alice A. Shurrocks gave the Nantucket Historical Association (NHA) over 1000 provenienced artifacts in 1940 (Shurrocks 1940), and Mrs. Shurrocks continued collecting and recording find sites until her death; her provenienced collection was given in 1979 to the Nantucket Historical Association. Beginning in 1943, another husband and wife team, Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Olney Dunham, also contributed most of their extensive surface collection, including site records, to the NHA. The Irving Sandsbury and Marcus L. Ramsdell collections are also at the NHA.

The Shawkemo Chapter of the M.A.S. was formed at Nantucket in 1957 (Roy 1958), and undertook excavations during its eight years of operation. Publications by Stanley Roy (1956), Bernard T. Stockley (1964a, 1964b, 1965, 1968) and Joseph H. Waters (1965) record these controlled excavations.

Since 1972, the Nantucket Historical Association has assumed responsibility for curation, research, management and preservation of Nantucket's archaeological sites and finds (Little 1978, 1979, 1980; Little, Young and Sussek 1981).

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Robert Minshall, right, presenting the catalogue of his provenienced Nantucket artifact collection to Edouard A. Stackpole, left, director of the Peter Foulger Museum, Nantucket, in July 1980. Bob also donated his artifact collection to the Nantucket Historical Association shortly before his death in 1980.

In the 1930's, Bob Minshall had been introduced to archaeology at Nantucket by Edward Brooks and Mr. and Mrs. Alfred F. Shurrocks, who emphasized the importance of recording find-sites (Shurrocks 1940). Edward Brooks was a founding member and chairman of the membership committee of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society, and conducted the first M.A.S. sponsored excavation at Herracator Swamp, Nantucket, in 1939-40 (Brooks 1939, 1941; Bullen and Brooks 1949). (Elizabeth A. Little photograph).





## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE SOUTH SHORE CHAPTER

Curtiss Hoffman

The South Shore Chapter of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society was chartered in April of 1952. Its center of activities has traditionally been the area around the Blue Hills, an area well known from ethnohistorical accounts and surface remains to be rich in Indian sites. Some previous archaeological work had been done in the Blue Hills by the Harvard Excavators Club, which investigated the Blue Hill River Workshop Site during the 1940's (Rowe 1941). The massive quantities of felsite chipping debris and artifacts from this site were a further incentive to begin a Chapter in this area.

Most of the early work of the Chapter centered in the Cochato Drainage, a tributary of the Monaquot forming the boundary between Randolph and Braintree. Early chapter members included William Ayers, Guy Mellgren, Edward Runge, Bernard Cochrane, Wesley Cote and Robert Martin. Working together or separately, these members recorded a dozen densely occupied sites on bluffs overlooking the Cochato, some of which have since been bulldozed for housing developments or industrial plants. Their work established a baseline for what has come to be referred to as the "Cochato Complex" (Carty 1983), one of the strongest Middle Archaic manifestations anywhere in Massachusetts. The results of their work were published in two separate articles in the Bulletin of the M.A.S. (Ayers et al. 1955; Cote 1958). Charcoal from one of Cote's sites, Mill St. in Randolph, was recently dated to  $3020 \pm 90$  B.P. (Beta-16516); it is associated with small quartz triangles (Hoffman 1986).

In 1962, the Chapter shifted its operations from the Monaquot to the Neponset drainage. With a few exceptions, the Chapter's work has remained centered there ever since. At about this time, the Chapter established a relationship with the Blue Hills Trailside Museum of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, which granted display and meeting space to the Chapter. Under the direction of Robert Martin, the Chapter undertook the first phase of its extended excavations at the Ponkapoag site, on the shores of Ponkapoag Pond. Excavations at Ponkapoag were possible year-round, because of the cover of pine needles; Bob Martin has slides of winter digging at the site. Ponkapoag is remarkable for its large collection (183) of ulus, in all stages of manufacture; the site has components from Early Archaic bifurcate through Contact; a Pine Tree Shilling was recovered, probably associated with the praying Indian village in the vicinity. Excavation continued full time at Ponkapoag until 1966, and then part-time through 1974. One radiocarbon date of  $4960 \pm 75$  B.P. (UGA-012) was recovered by Joseph Marshall and sons from a dense felsite workshop. Martin reported the Chapter's findings in the Bulletin in 1977 (Martin 1977).

In 1966, Bernie Cochrane and Bob Martin recovered over 200 tools from the surface of a truck garden at the base of what was later to be called Green Hill. They were soon joined by Dana Seaverns, Guy Mellgren, Richard Parker and Al Lowry. The site was considered endangered since the Department of Public Works planned to construct an extension of Interstate-95 through the area. Work alternated between this site and Ponkapoag from 1966 to 1970, the Green Hill site being worked during the summer, when the site is exposed to cooling breezes up the Neponset, and abandoned during the fall and winter for the same reason.



Starting in 1968, Dick Parker began excavation at the Brook Meadow site in Canton, along with Al Lowry and Ross McCurdy. This project was undertaken as a salvage operation, and replaced Green Hill as the Chapter dig during 1970 and 1971 for this reason. Parker reported his findings at Brook Meadow, a multi-component Archaic site, in the Bulletin in 1974 (Parker 1974). Work continued at Ponkapoag during this period in the colder months of the year.

With the destruction of the Brook Meadow site in 1972, the Chapter returned to Green Hill during the summers, under the direction of Ross McCurdy, Dick Parker, Kenneth Menzies and Al Lowry. It was during this period that Al designed the familiar symbol for the M.A.S. that adorns the Bulletin, auto decals and the popular South Shore Chapter T-shirts. A new grid was laid out on the apron of the site and large-scale area excavation was undertaken. This operation was accelerated from 1973 to 1975 with the introduction of field school students from Boston College working under Dr. John Rosser and adult education students from Cambridge Center, Boston Center and Newton YMCA working under Dr. Curtiss Hoffman. Numerous features were excavated and samples saved for flotation and radiocarbon dating; samples from two adjacent pits of  $7950 \pm 95$  B.P. (UGA-580) and  $7875 \pm 230$  B.P. (UGA-500) were at the time the oldest Archaic dates in Massachusetts. A third date of  $4390 \pm 70$  B.P. (UGA-1236) established the Late Archaic component at the site. The Green Hill site is remarkable in its large number of felsite bifaces (knives) and argillite gouges, illustrating several different stages of manufacture. Is it possible that individual sites like Green Hill and Ponkapoag were stations for specialists in certain tool types, who traded with each other and well beyond the region?

In order to clear up the backlog of laboratory analysis of the site, excavation ceased at Green Hill from 1976-78. The results of this study were published in a series of papers edited by Rosser in the Bulletin (Rosser 1980a, 1980b). During this period, the Chapter remained active, taking part in an intensive survey along the Blue Hills River under the direction of Dr. Barbara Luedtke (1978) in advance of a sewer project. Also during this period, the Chapter participated with the Friends of the Blue Hills in preparing a National Register District Nomination for the Blue Hills. This successfully protects the Green Hill site as well as several known felsite quarries in the Blue Hills; unfortunately, the Ponkapoag site was not included in the final accepted nomination because it was not possible to establish site boundaries.

The Chapter returned to Green Hill in the summer of 1978 under a revised excavation plan, with Dr. Curtiss Hoffman as field director and Dr. Charles Nelson as research director. Instead of open area excavations, a series of perpendicular transects was established to test the limits of the site. Actually, the last season of Rosser's excavation in 1975 had investigated one such transect in the lower meadow. From 1978 until 1984, excavation concentrated on a transect from the top of the hill to the edge of the floodplain, and another along the crest of the hill. The hillcrest proved to be extremely productive, and two radiocarbon dates of  $3965 \pm 155$  B.P. (GX-10250) and  $4460 \pm 80$  B.P. (Beta-15193) were recovered from features in this area (Nelson and Hoffman 1983). Excavation ceased again after the 1984 season so as to evaluate the results and prepare another report, which we hope to have completed soon.

Besides formal excavation projects, the Chapter has continued its involvement in surveys; in 1980 several chapter members participated in a survey in the Dover-Medfield area under Dr. Curtiss Hoffman (1980), and in the spring of 1986 in a survey at a Late Woodland site in Holbrook, again under Dr. Hoffman (1986). A small lithic scatter of Blue Hills felsite from this site was radiocarbon dated by associated charcoal to  $400 \pm 150$  B.P. (Beta-16517) (Hoffman 1986). The Chapter was actively involved in the litigation against the Codex Corporation at Prowse Farm, until that company agreed to a survey. We also



were involved in efforts to save Redman Farmhouse, which may possibly serve in the future as a repository for the Chapter's large artifact collections. Since 1985, the Chapter has been undertaking a program of visiting lithic quarry sites in the Boston Basin to secure a sample of the range of variation at each quarry. We hope to be able to apply diagnostic testing to these samples to determine whether our visual identification of stone as being from a particular quarry site is warranted. Former Chapter Chair Chris Pahud has completed work on a videotape of the Green Hill Site, which is available through the Robbins Museum for sale or rental.

In 1985, after a change in directorship at Trailside Museum, the Chapter, faced with declining membership, decided to move its headquarters out of the Trailside. Our monthly meetings during the 1985-86 season were held at the Quincy Historical Society museum. This change did not, in the event, prove to attract more members, and the Chapter is currently seeking a new headquarters. We are experimenting with a cooperative arrangement with the North River Chapter, alternating meeting spaces every month; the current location of meetings in the South Shore area is the Dedham Super Stop and Shop on Route 1. All M.A.S. members, as well as the general public, are invited to attend.

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THE BULLETIN:

A PERSONAL HONOR ROLL FROM THE FIRST THIRTY VOLUMES

Dena F. Dincauze

Some time ago, Dr. Little asked me to list some "classic" titles from the Bulletin of the MAS, articles that in their time were innovative and important, and which have proven to have lasting value. The following is a highly personal selection of titles from volumes 1-30, representing the articles that helped me follow a thread of history through the maze that was New England archaeology up to the mid-1960s. What they all have in common is insight into what was immediately and enduringly significant in discoveries at their time; all surpass the antiquarian mode that prevailed in northeastern archaeology in the first half of the century, anticipating the humanistic and scientific modes to come.

These articles were instrumental in helping me to convince my advisors at Harvard that there were genuine research issues in New England archaeology, worthy of a dissertation. I have reread them again and again over the years to find guidance and support in their insights and problem-formulations. Avocational archaeology at the level of achievement represented by these articles can be a source of pride and inspiration as the Massachusetts Archaeological Society faces its second half-century.

Selected Titles from the Bulletin of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society, 1939-68:

Aboriginal New England Pottery (First Installment), William J. Howes, 15(2): 23, Second Installment 15(4): 81, Third Installment 16(1): 9, Fourth Installment 17(2): 30, Fifth Installment 17(3): 52, Sixth Installment 21(2): 27, Seventh Installment 21(3-4): 54.

Adena-Connected Burial Site, An, Barker D. Keith, 27(1): 1.

Analysis of Copper Bead from Indian Grave, Holyoke, Massachusetts, Anon., 3(2): 18.

Archaeological Reconnaissance in the Marion Region during 1942, Maurice Robbins, 4(2): 17.

Archaeology of the Cochato River Valley Area, Wesley C. Cote, 19(2): 22.

Archaeology of the Lower North River Valley, Henry F. Howe, 10(2): 39.

Black Lucy's Garden, Adelaide Bullen and Ripley P. Bullen, 6(2): 17.

Bull Brook Site, Ipswich, Mass., The, William Eldridge and Joseph Vaccaro, 13(4): 39.

Cape Cod Canal Pot, A, Jesse Brewer, 23(1): 18.

Ceremonial and Domestic Products of Aboriginal New England, William S. Fowler, 27(3-4): 33.



- Coburn Site: A Burial Complex on Cape Cod, The, Frank Kremp, 22(3-4): 33.
- Forts, Boundaries, or Ha-Has?, Ripley P. Bullen, 4(1): 1.
- Mansion Inn Site--Wayland, The, J. Alfred Mansfield, 23(1): 1.
- Massasoit's Domain: Is "Wampanoag" the Correct Designation?, Warner F. Gookin, 20(1): 12.
- Materials Used for Chipped Implements, Ross Moffett, 5(3): 42.
- Oaklawn Quarry: Stone Bowl and Pipe Making, William S. Fowler, 29(1): 1.
- Paleo-Indian in the Northeast, The, William A. Ritchie, 19(2): 21.
- Pebble Beach Workshops of the South Shore, Gudrun B. Howe and Henry F. Howe, 8(3): 44.
- Report on a Fresh Water Shell Heap at Concord, Massachusetts, A, Benjamin L. Smith, 1(3): 14.
- Review of Cape Cod Archaeology, A, Ross Moffett, 19(1): 1.
- Site Characteristics in the Concord River Valley, Benjamin L. Smith, 5(3): 37.
- Soapstone Bowl Making as Practiced at the Westfield Quarry, William S. Fowler, 4(3): 42.
- Some Indian Burials from Southeastern Massachusetts (Part I), Maurice Robbins, 20(2): 17.
- Suggestions of Stratigraphy in Eastern Massachusetts, Ripley P. Bullen, 7(3): 54.
- Triangular Hoes of the Northeast and Their Diffusion, William S. Fowler, 9(4): 83.

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EDITORS OF THE BULLETIN, 1939-1989

Douglas S. Byers 1939-40;1942-51
Chester S. Chard 1941
Maurice Robbins 1951-1956
Leaman F. Hallett 1956-1959

William S. Fowler 1959-1975
Dena F. Dincauze 1975-1980
Barbara Luedtke 1980-1986
Elizabeth A. Little 1986-

THE MASSACHUSETTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM:
PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF THE ROBBINS MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY

James Wait

The Museum Past - A Legacy of Magnificent Volunteer Effort.

From the inception of our organization, a Society-owned museum was envisioned. In 1939 Dr. Maurice Robbins persuaded three farsighted Attleboro businessmen, Messrs. Barden, Willard and Thatcher, to form the Attleboro Museum Associates for the purpose of purchasing the extensive Richardson Collection of artifacts. Both the Richardson Collection and the Art collections of the Attleboro Museum of Art were placed on display in the Attleboro Court House. Dr. Robbins became curator of both collections for three years until they had to move out of the Court House at the onset of WW II.

At that time Mr. Barden, one of the owners of the Richardson Collection, was also Secretary-Treasurer of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society and owner of the five-story Bronson Building in Attleboro. He offered free use of the 5th floor in exchange for a commitment from the organizations to maintain a public art, history and archaeological museum, and for a commitment from the City for a tax abatement.

By 1950 both museum collections needed more space. The Art and History Museum moved to Capron Park. A new agreement was drawn up between the Bronson Building owners, the Massachusetts Archaeological Society and The Museum Associates who owned the Richardson Collection. Dr. Robbins was a member of The Associates. From that time on the Bronson Museum was operated by the Massachusetts Archaeological Society and was devoted solely to archaeology. In 1988 the Society wisely and aptly renamed the museum The Robbins Museum of Archaeology, after its founder, Dr. Maurice Robbins. The pioneering efforts of Dr. Robbins, William Fowler, the Cohannet Chapter and many others over the past fifty years, have earned the privilege of that free rent through their thousands of hours of volunteer work which built the Bronson Museum and the Society.

Eventually the members of the Museum Associates passed away and their one surviving member, Dr. Robbins, transferred ownership of the Richardson Collection to the Massachusetts Archaeological Society. The original 30,000 artifacts of the Richardson collection has grown to between 60,000 and 70,000, greatly increasing the museum's geographical representation of the state. Moreover, the acquisition over a 30-year period of the carefully provenienced Middleborough area materials and of many unique artifacts has added both to the value and the scope of the museum's collections. By the middle 1980's the museum had developed an international reputation for the quality of its collections and exhibits and had, once again, outgrown its space.

The Museum Present - Taking Stock and Searching for a New Home.

By 1987 it was time to step back and take an objective look at ourselves - who we were, where we'd been and where we should be heading as a museum. In August of 1987 the Long Range Planning Committee systematically developed a statement of museum goals and objectives and a profile of the facilities required to carry them out. The

museum's mission would be attained through carrying out a number of action goals within four specific areas: Collections, Preservation, Education and Dissemination of information. All of the specific goals, which reflected the desires and needs of our membership, fill a big plate and will not be attained easily; but they will be accomplished as one would build a house - by driving one nail at a time. Next, we asked ourselves what kind of facility would be needed to accomplish the goals? We felt that the absolute minimum space required would be five to six thousand square feet, and we would be delighted with the growth and expansion prospects that nine to fifteen thousand square feet would allow.

Lightning struck in November 1987 when we were notified that we had to vacate the Bronson Building. It was an emotional shock for all of us. A forty-year legacy suddenly ended. We moved to 42 Union Street, Attleboro, where we hoped to negotiate a permanent arrangement for co-occupancy of the Attleboro Area Industrial Museum Complex. We were unable to do so. By late last fall we knew that we would have to move again by the end of the March 1989. Like our first move, this second move was accomplished through the dedicated and Herculean volunteer efforts of M.A.S. members and friends. Our large collection of artifacts are currently being stored free in a secure heated facility owned by the Ocean Spray Cranberry Corporation. So twice we moved hundreds of boxes and display cases, and to our knowledge didn't lose an artifact. In any event, we now had to find a new home fast!

Last fall we established a Building Function Task Force to specify building requirements and site evaluation criteria that could be used in evaluating potential museum locations. We also established a Museum Relocation Task Force whose task it was to find a new home for the Robbins Museum and Society headquarters. The task force scoured the countryside with assistance from M.A.S. members, chapters, friends, real estate firms, town governments and other caring and interested parties. In the process they examined everything: raw land, several renovated industrial buildings, an available mansion, an old round brick gasholder building, an old baseball training camp, a farm, a college, etc. This, as you can imagine, was a difficult, uncertain and time-consuming process.

Especially difficult was the final choice between two, in many ways, equally attractive alternatives: a lovely old library building in a college town, and the Read Building in Middleborough, MA. The decision required that careful thought be given to balancing the risks of long-term strategic and short-term operational considerations. On February 11th the Board of Directors unanimously selected Middleborough and the Read Building. Let me briefly describe our new home and share with you a few of the reasons for selecting it.

The Read Building and Middleborough.

The permanent home of the Society and its Museum will be the Read Building, formerly the Robertson Curtain Factory. Through the kindness and generosity of James L. Read, president of the Read Corporation, we are obtaining a medium-term lease on exceptionally favorable terms. In February, Mr. Read offered the Society free use of storage space in the building as an incentive for us to move to Middleborough. Further discussion with Mr. Read led to the favorable leasing arrangement, and to an incredibly generous offer, namely: if we were successful in renovating the building through the joint volunteer efforts of both M.A.S. members and the citizens of Middleborough, he would, at the end of the lease period, make an outright gift of the building to the Massachusetts Archaeological Society. We had found a home.

The building itself is comprised of a two-story, wood structure built in 1910, totaling

5600 square feet. An additional 5000 square feet was added in 1945 and another 10,000 square feet was added in 1959 for a total of approximately 21,000 square feet of usable space. The building is white with aluminum siding, has a flat roof, is mostly insulated, partially air-conditioned, and protected by a sprinkler system, and has lots of windows and two loading docks, one of which could be inexpensively adapted for handicapped access. Our architect, Stopfel Associates, is impressed by the building and feels that it could be converted to a fine museum.

The 2800 square feet on the second floor, when renovated, could serve as the headquarters for the Society with offices, a library, and space for chapters and board of directors meetings as well as a modest kitchen and two private bathrooms. The 9000 square feet on the first floor, when renovated, would comprise the museum proper, a reception area, public restrooms, and the museum store. The 9000 square feet basement, of which 6500 square feet has a nine foot ceiling, could serve for storage, meeting and classroom space, a laboratory, and for numerous other purposes.

The building is located in the center of town near the police station, the fire station, the town hall and several eating places. It is also across the street from a large town-owned parking lot, the town museum and Historical Society, and a 30-acre public playground. It is uphill from the old Nemasket Indian canoe route, the Plymouth Path, and is also near Indian Hill, the Titicut Site, the Fort Hill Site and the Pratt Farm Site. The Wapanuckett Sites on Assawompsett Lake where Dr. Robbins and the Cohannet Chapter dug for thirty years is only a few miles distant. In fact, twenty-two of the old Bronson Museum's forty-four exhibits were from the greater Middleborough area. It is the most important archaeological area in Southeastern Massachusetts and is still available for field research with state and landowner permission.

The prehistoric cultural advantages of the area and the potential for future digs were important considerations, but, on balance, were far from the pivotal issues in selecting Middleborough. Routes 495, 44, 18 and 105 are nearby and carry very heavy tourist traffic. This becomes especially significant when you consider that our museum will be the third in the area and that Cranberry World may be relocated from Plymouth to Middleboro in a few years. Plymouth Plantation, which draws over several hundred thousand annually, is only thirteen miles distant. Plymouth County draws two million annually. In short, the economics, demographics and traffic flow for a museum are excellent.

A Wampanoag Indian Cultural Center and "living museum" is proposed for the town-owned Pratt Farm Site and some of our programs could interface with theirs. We are located not far from five colleges, the South Shore Natural Science Center and the Lloyd Center for Environmental Studies. The opportunities for complementary and cooperative efforts are legion. Middleborough is convenient for several of our Chapters.

The most important consideration to us was the overwhelming response of the people of Middleborough. They are acutely aware of their historic and prehistoric past and of the need for understanding and preserving it. They view a number of their town's goals as being closely aligned with the goals of our Society and are committed to working with us to see us both grow and prosper together.

The depth of Middleborough's commitment is reflected in the fact that our relocation to Middleboro has been publicly supported by almost every organized body of people in the town, public and private, from the selectmen to the school children. Moreover, the town is committed to stepping forward to offer help. We have offers from what will probably comprise a network of two to three hundred people willing to volunteer their

efforts and expertise to help complete the renovations of the Read Building. We will soon be conducting a cooperative three-phased fund-raising effort with the town to support two town projects and our own building renovation. In short, we feel that we have a "real thing going" between our society's museum and Middleborough.

The Future - It's Up to Us.

In terms of our future, our Society and museum have been most fortunate recently from a cash standpoint. Past M.A.S. president Mike Touloumtzis skillfully arranged a \$200,000 state grant through Attleboro representative Stephen Karol. The grant, a state budget line item, ably administered by the Massachusetts Council for the Arts and Humanities, was meant to cover the costs for the move and for relocation of our museum. It has also paid for the six-month lease of a temporary Society Headquarters at 11 North Main Street, Middleborough, a stone's throw from both the Town Hall and the Read Building. From there we will manage both the Read Building renovation process and society business. Our mailing address is P. O. Box 700, Middleborough, MA 02346; Telephone: 508-947-9005.

We would like to manage the renovation process so that we can move the Society headquarters into the second floor of the Read Building by late fall 1989 and complete Phase I of the museum renovation at the same time. We are now starting the architectural and planning efforts to enable us to do so. We will need every bit of help that we can get from each of you.

According to our architect, it may require between \$200,000 and \$700,000 or more to renovate the building even with volunteer labor. Ideally, we should as a society also envision needing a one-half to three-quarters of a million dollar endowment fund which, with museum store income and admission fees, would cover the operating costs of the building. An additional one to one-and-a-half million dollar fund might be sought to support, on an annual basis, the museum's specific program goals.

How does a small Society and museum like ours, which historically has operated on free rent, volunteer labor, a \$10,000 budget and not even a sign over the door, expect to raise this money? Well, frankly, we don't know how to do it yet, but we think we know how to find out how to do it. Ways of dealing with the rapidly changing and complex museum environment of today are hard to come by, but they *are* there, and we are encouraged by the help offered by the people of Middleborough, and by our members and friends who are again ready to help us. In the words of a corny WWII song: "We did it before and we can do it again!"

Thirty-six years ago, in the April 1953 special "Museum issue" of our Society's Bulletin (14:102-103), William Fowler said, "We have many plans for the future of our museum, but perhaps the most ambitious of these plans is that which concerns the insurance of permanence. The ultimate security is, of course, a building of our own...." I think that Mr. Fowler would be very pleased if he were here with us today. In or within a few years, with your help, we will, indeed, have a museum building of our own that will, we hope, eventually become self-supporting. Mr. Fowler went on to say - and I'll end my comments with his words - "This is your museum and your Society, its future is in your hands."

MIDDLEBOROUGH ORIGINS

Maurice Robbins

To the best of my knowledge the Indian place name, Nemasket, appears first in a letter written by an English explorer named Dermer that came into the possession of William Bradford through a friend. In this letter, written in 1619, Dermer says, "but they (the Indians) would have killed me when I was at Nemasket, had not he (Squanto) entreated hard for me" (Bradford [1620] 1898:116). Being unfamiliar with the Algonkian dialect as spoken by the local Pokonokeuks at that early date, the settlers at Plymouth thought that the term was the name of a specific Indian town or village and that town was somewhere near the wading place or ford on the Nemasket river, where several Indian trails met and crossed that river (Robbins 1984).

Bradford (1898:125), in telling of an episode in which the two Indian ambassadors (Hobomok and Squanto) were involved in a dispute with a sub-sachem named Caunbitant (Pocasset), tells us that the two Indians, having gone to Nemasket on some business errand, met with this sachem, who, to say the least, was not inclined to be friendly to the English, and were threatened by him. For details concerning this early event, see Robbins (1984).

At a later date it became apparent that the native meaning of the term Nemasket was to describe a fairly large tract of land in which were many Indian villages. It is not now possible to define precisely the geographical bounds of the Indian Nemasket and we know the precise location of only a few of the villages. One of them was known to the English as Nemasket. Bradford says that the village he knew as Nemasket was about fourteen miles from Plymouth. Following the writings of Bradford and his contemporaries it seems probable that this particular Indian settlement is just off Sachem Street in Middleborough on the Pratt Farm, which is now the property of the town. The word is probably a derivative of two Algonkian words, nemah or fish and et or ett, called the locative and meaning the place of or at. A free translation would be, "the place where we go to fish." Included within Nemasket were the villages of Titicut near Pratt's Bridge on Vernon Street (Robbins 1967), Fort Hill just across the river from the village of Titicut (Dodge 1953; Taylor 1976), Muttock on the Nemasket, Wapanucket (Robbins 1968, 1980) and Nahteawamet sites about the ponds, the Pratt Farm site and many others.

It is most appropriate that the last of the Nemasket Indians should have lived and died at Nahteawamet, which in translation may be rendered as, "the place at which the ancient ones lived."

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Photograph of Jim Wait and Rusty Meenan in the field with the Cohannet Chapter at Square No. 1, Tobey Site, Rehoboth 1986.



DR. LOMBARD CARTER JONES: PHYSICIAN AND INDIAN VOTARY

George Sweet Gibb

During the three decades after World War I, Dr. Lombard Carter Jones of Waquoit may well have known more about Falmouth's Indian population, living and prehistoric, than any person alive. Avidly he collected the ancient relics, and faithfully he attended the ills and the pregnancies of living descendants of these ancient peoples.

He was known for more than his artifact-hunting. Sportsman, naturalist, patron of the arts, avid reader and correspondent, gourmet, and General Practitioner extraordinary, Dr. Jones came back to his native Cape Cod and practiced medicine in the Falmouth area until shortly before his death in 1944. He had been born in Sandwich in 1865, the eldest son of a well-to-do merchant/manufacturer who sired three other sons and four daughters. They were a close-knit and fun-loving family, though straight-laced and not without the prejudices of their Yankee Victorian compatriots. Lombard "Bert" Jones was graduated from Harvard University in 1887 and received his M.D. from Harvard Medical School in 1892. For some years he practiced in Malden. He married Nina Dutton Everhart, widow and mother of two young daughters, and in 1911 purchased a gracious old homestead and 25 acres of land at the head of Waquoit Bay and adjacent to Bourne Pond. Subsequently, Dr. Jones enlarged his landholdings to 80 acres, had a son Louis Bernard Jones, and witnessed the transformation of the property into a garden land at the hands of his wife and a devoted Portuguese caretaker.

Dr. Jones' interest in Falmouth's Indians was stirred early. He recalled hearing his Waquoit-born grandmother, Reliance Phinney Jones, recount how, in her youth, she had talked with a very old Mashpee Indian woman who described to her the wigwams that she had seen as a girl on the bluff overlooking Waquoit Bay.

When Dr. Jones came to Waquoit, most of the Falmouth area was under cultivation. Everyone knew the Doctor, and he traversed the plowed fields at will. His collecting of Indian artifacts encompassed all the area along the Sound from Woods Hole to Osterville and across the Cape through Mashpee to Sandwich and Barnstable Marsh, on Cape Cod Bay. He had little competition; he found the most prolific sites, and his eye was as keen as an eagle's. As late as 1942, paying a nostalgic last visit to one of his favorite spots on the banks of a Waquoit tidal estuary in company with a young cousin, he leaned down and plucked from the shore a fine Indian stone hoe that had lain there undetected by less perceptive hunters.

Typically, he enriched his knowledge through study and by correspondence - in this case with the pioneer New England archaeologist Warren King Moorehead, whose 1917 classic, Stone Ornaments of the American Indian became the doctor's Bible, as were the early Bulletins of the Bureau of American Ethnology. These volumes joined thousands of other books piled along the walls of his Waquoit living room, whose walls were graced by dozens of etchings by Frank Benson, another luminary with whom the doctor carried on a voluminous correspondence.

But mostly it was leg-work and keen eyesight. A physically powerful man, Dr. Jones hiked hundreds of miles and could retrieve an unbelievable weight of stone across

country that would have taxed an ordinary, unburdened man. It was on one of these long hikes that he experienced the collector's ultimate frustration. Late on a dark November afternoon, far out on Sandy Neck among the tall Barnstable dunes, he stopped to stare in astonishment. Near the thicket-capped top of a dune he saw several clay pots protruding from the sand. The cache was too great, the day too far gone, and the weather too threatening to attempt excavation. Dr. Jones returned home. That night one of the worst nor'easters in memory struck the Cape. Four days later the doctor returned to Sandy Neck. Pots and dune alike had disappeared!

It was not all surface collecting. On a farm in East Sandwich Dr. Jones made a sensational discovery - a large and undisturbed Indian burying ground. Obviously the burials belong to what archaeologists call the Contact Period, when Indian culture was beginning to reflect the influence of transatlantic visitors. The graves were clearly marked with small boulder headstones. In those days there were no taboos. Dr. Jones commenced digging, unearthing many treasures that, along with the best of what he had collected earlier, were given to the Peabody Museum at Harvard. After excavating a number of graves and while digging yet another, the doctor was suddenly seized with agonizing muscle spasms. He barely managed to struggle home, where he lay in bed for pain-ridden weeks. It was all eerily reminiscent of the Curse of Tutankhamen, the malady that reputedly struck down one after another of the archaeologists who discovered and excavated the tomb of Egypt's old "King Tut." Dr. Jones' malady was never diagnosed. Neither did he return to the East Sandwich graveyard. Today that site, rediscovered and known to the Cape Cod Chapter of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society, remains inviolate, as the present landowner wishes and as Commonwealth law now decrees.

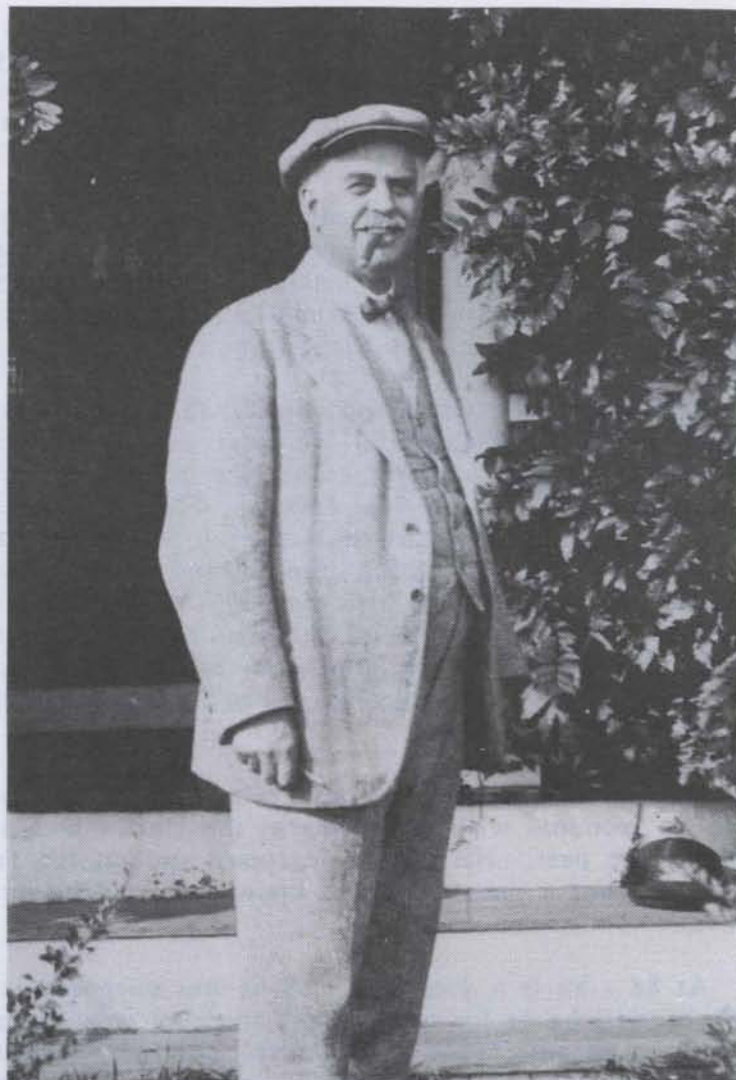
Some of Dr. Jones' finest artifacts came, not from plowed fields, shell heaps and graves, but from the homes of the descendants of the original settlers. Dr. Jones knew these people well. Usually, they were poor, and he seldom sent them a bill for his professional services. They, in gratitude, brought him venison, ducks and produce. Old Mr. Queppish, of Mashpee, brought the doctor fat one-pound native brook trout every spring, along with delicious smoked eels. An old - very old - Mashpee Indian matron wove superb Mashpee Indian corn baskets to the doctor's order. Patients of Indian descent insisted on presenting Dr. Jones with baskets of all descriptions which had been lying around their houses from time out of memory. These treasures also ended up at the Peabody.

Dr. Jones' great collection of stone artifacts was stored for years in the attic of the Jones homestead on Main Street, Sandwich, along with other treasures such as the peep decoys the Jones boys shot over on the Sandwich marshes. In the early 1940's Dr. Jones, with the consent of surviving members of the family, gave this collection to the son of his much-loved first cousin, Helen Sweet Gibb, of Attleboro. The son, in turn, gave many of the artifacts to the Indian Museum in Mashpee and to the Bronson Museum of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society in Attleboro. Peabody Museum at Harvard still houses the best of the Jones material, including what Dr. Jones himself referred to, with a chuckle, as "the oldest smoked kipper in America" ... one of the artifacts that came from the ill-fated East Sandwich excavation.

It is not surprising that those of Indian descent in Falmouth loved this remarkable man and shared with him, for the benefit of posterity, their rich heritage of stone and straw craftsmanship. Summer people admired him equally. A man with enormous charisma, he healed as much by his presence as by his pills. These he carried in two rows of neatly capped bottles inside an old-fashioned black bag. He dispensed them with a grin and with the hearty assurance that they would surely "do the trick."

Lombard Carter Jones lived with gusto and kept his enthusiasm beyond the time when he could exercise it actively. Almost to the end he thought longingly of a certain field beside a certain Falmouth salt "crik." Here, he said, was the most prolific Indian campsite on the Upper Cape. From this field, when it was under cultivation, he retrieved hundreds of fine artifacts. What might lie buried below the plow-line was something to boggle the imagination. But the plows had long ceased to turn their artifact-laden furrows and the site in time became a dense stand of pine. "Be there," the old doctor told a friend, "when they cut the timber and when the first bulldozer goes through." He would have hoped that scientists might get there ahead of the developers.

Dr. Lombard Carter Jones.
Photo taken about 1930 on
front stairs of his home
"Ockway" at Waquoit
(collection of George S.
Gibb).



MAURICE ROBBINS: AN UNCOMMON MAN

Michael Touloumtzis
Presidential Address 1986

We, your friends, have a great joy today as we witness yet another occasion when just and proper tribute is paid you. Your daughters and their families sitting here today feel so proud of their father and grandfather. As you hear the words of our appreciation, I am sure that - along with us - your thoughts have been of your dear Mabel, who accompanied you on every step of your adventure in archaeology. Our debt to her - for all she did for the Massachusetts Archaeological Society and the Cohannet Chapter is inestimable. We all thank you both for so much.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

As we listened to the proclamation by Governor Dukakis, we heard recounted the manifest reasons which have compelled us to pay tribute to Dr. Robbins. His accomplishments are so many, so important, so vital to the future course of archaeology and to the Massachusetts Archaeological Society, that we will know the bounty of his gifts for years to come - years without calculation.

When I chose the title of my talk, I indicated that Dr. Robbins is an uncommon man. By uncommon, however, I was not thinking of his accomplishment as such. What impresses me most and truly makes him uncommon in my view is embodied in the last phrase of the Governor's proclamation: "Today, in his 88th year he still has the fervor and young ideas that lead and inspire us all."

I have had the great opportunity and privilege to be Dr. Robbins' friend. We are neighbors here in Attleboro. We meet at the museum every Wednesday. We visit Dr. Robbins at his home once or twice each week. We speak on the phone about every day. We have become fast and dear friends. From this vantage point we have been able to see characteristics and qualities that may not otherwise be apparent. We have never visited Dr. Robbins without finding him enthusiastically immersed in the love of his life - archaeology. He may be sitting at his typewriter working on a new book, writing the field report for the Cohannet Chapter's field work, answering letters to fellow scientists all over the world. Or, we find him reading a new book that he characteristically wants to share with us. Or he may be in bed ill and medicated but still cheerful in his attitude - reading without satiation.

He is constantly curious, always open-minded, never doctrinaire on scientific matters. While he recounts with great charm the stories and adventures of the past, he does not dwell in the past. His eye is on today and on the future. He is not a man resting on his laurels, but a man driven to know and to discover the enigmas that remain for us to unravel.

At 88 - he is a youth. At 88 he has purposes yet to fulfill. And, next Wednesday, at 88 he will be at his desk in the museum working at his projects, sharing his wisdom, goading us to new plans and actions. And so, because at 88 he is the youngest man in spirit that I know, I say to you - he is an uncommon man.

AWARDS PRESENTED TO MAURICE ROBBINS AT THE ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE MASSACHUSETTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, OCTOBER 18, 1986.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

By His Excellency MICHAEL S. DUKAKIS, GOVERNOR

WHEREAS: Dr. Robbins was born in Mansfield, Massachusetts on April 15, 1898; and
WHEREAS: His interest in archaeology began in 1928. He worked with a pioneer of
American archaeology, Dr. Warren King Moorehead; and
WHEREAS: Dr. Robbins received his Doctorate in Archaeology in 1947; and
WHEREAS: In 1939 he was founder and first president of the Massachusetts
Archaeological Society.
WHEREAS: In 1939 he also initiated the Massachusetts Archaeological Society Bulletin
which has become a prestigious publication with world-wide distribution; and
WHEREAS: Dr. Robbins founded the Bronson Archaeological Museum in Attleboro in 1941
and was its President and Curator from 1944 to 1983. He remains the museum's
curator emeritus (the largest repository of New England artifacts) and is a
member of the Society's Board of Trustees; and
WHEREAS: In 1942 Dr. Robbins established the Warren King Moorehead chapter of the
Massachusetts Archaeological Society. He directed the Titicut Excavation site
in 1942 and the Assawompsett Site in Lakeville from 1950 to 1983; and
WHEREAS: Dr. Robbins authored the Amateur Archaeologist Handbook in 1964. It is
distributed throughout the world and has been translated into Japanese. He is
presently writing the fifth of a series entitled "Pathways of the Past"; and
WHEREAS: Through the Massachusetts Archaeological Society, Dr. Robbins sponsored
legislation which created the Massachusetts Historical Commission in 1969 and
was appointed to this commission from 1969 to 1972. He was instrumental in
the establishment of the Office of State Archaeologist and was appointed the
first State Archaeologist from 1972 to 1979; and
WHEREAS: Dr. Robbins pioneered in the collection of paleobotanicals and in the
environmental approach to archaeology. He demonstrated that New England
was first inhabited 10,000 years ago. He has taught and inspired two
generations of archaeologists; and
WHEREAS: Today, in his 88th year Dr. Robbins is at the Bronson Museum regularly. He
still has the fervor and young ideas that lead and inspire us all;

NOW THEREFORE I, MICHAEL S. DUKAKIS, Governor of the Commonwealth of
Massachusetts, do hereby honor and commend DR. MAURICE ROBBINS, AND
URGE THE CITIZENS OF THE COMMONWEALTH TO TAKE COGNIZANCE OF
THIS EVENT AND TO PARTICIPATE FITTINGLY IN ITS OBSERVANCE.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this third day of September, one thousand nine
hundred and eighty-six and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two
hundred and eleventh.

MICHAEL S. DUKAKIS
By His Excellency the Governor

Michael Joseph Connolly
Secretary of the Commonwealth

SEAL

GOD SAVE THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

CONGRESSIONAL AWARD Presented to DR. MAURICE ROBBINS in recognition of HIS
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS

OCTOBER 18, 1986

Barney Frank, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

CITY OF ATTLEBORO, RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION, DR. MAURICE ROBBINS

WHEREAS: Dr. Maurice Robbins has been called the "Father of Massachusetts Archaeology"; and
WHEREAS: Dr. Robbins' accomplishments, including the founding of the Bronson Museum, writing numerous archaeological publications and sponsoring legislation which created the Massachusetts Historical Commission; and
WHEREAS: Dr. Maurice Robbins earned a doctoral degree from McKinley-Roosevelt Institute in Chicago.
WHEREAS: Through his leadership one of the most significant archaeological excavations in Massachusetts was conducted in Lakeville. Archaeologists discovered artifacts that proved the existence of Indian settlements as old as 10,000 years, and;
WHEREAS: Dr. Robbins is a valued citizen of our great City and a model to all.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Kai Shang, Mayor of the City of Attleboro on behalf of all the citizens of this City, do hereby express to Dr. Maurice Robbins our sincere appreciation and thanks for his many years of service to the Museum.

Signed and Sealed this 16th day of September 1986,

Kai Shang, Mayor



Photograph of
Maurice Robbins
at Wampanucket
in the 1960's
(Photo from
M.A.S. files).

25th ANNIVERSARY PRESERVATION AWARDS MADE IN 1988 BY THE MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION TO BARBARA E. LUEDTKE AND ELIZABETH A. LITTLE.

[The following is reprinted from *A Commonwealth to Keep* (Massachusetts Historical Commission 1988:17,18)].

Barbara E. Luedtke

For nearly two decades, Barbara Luedtke, now Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Massachusetts at Boston, has successfully worked to inform the public of the importance and significance of archaeology. Her professional achievements include academic research on the Boston Harbor Islands and the Shattuck Farm Site, Andover, as well as other sites in Massachusetts. In 1975, her archaeological survey of the Boston Harbor Islands was one of the first projects in the Commonwealth specifically designed to inventory prehistoric and historic sites prior to any construction or land alteration. This research led directly to the nomination of the islands to the National Register as a 700-acre archaeological district containing an immense record of some 8,000 years of prehistoric Indian land use and settlement. The designation of the Harbor Islands in the National and State Registers has since helped to protect the sites from the potentially threatening impact of public works projects.

But Luedtke has taken her commitment beyond academic bounds. She firmly believes that professionals and amateurs can and should work hand-in-hand to identify and protect historic resources below ground. In 1975, she co-organized (with Dena Dincauze and Charles Nelson) a conference on public archaeology that brought together archaeologists, politicians and public agencies in a forum whose ultimate result was a network of archaeologists and citizens working to heighten awareness of site significance. Through her involvement in the Massachusetts Archaeological Society - as editor of the semi-annual *Bulletin* from 1980 to 1986 and as a member of the Board of Trustees and the South Shore

Chapter - Luedtke has contributed to a more positive and productive relationship between professional and avocational archaeologists. "Amateurs are on the front lines," she says. "They have so much enthusiasm to harness." To take advantage of that enthusiasm, Luedtke has encouraged amateurs to document and conserve their artifact collections properly and to report on their findings.

Whether speaking to professional colleagues, to amateur archaeologists, or to sixth graders, environmental groups, or historical societies, Luedtke tirelessly stresses the need for high standards, protection and preservation of sites, and the integration of archaeological concerns into matters of public policy. Her efforts have resulted in a greater awareness of the importance of archaeological sites and their preservation across the Commonwealth.

Elizabeth A. Little

Elizabeth A. (Betty) Little has devoted herself to archaeology, historic preservation, and public education in Massachusetts over the past 18 years, after an earlier career as a solid state physicist. Her inexhaustible efforts have been chiefly as a volunteer, and have occurred not far from her homes in Lincoln and Nantucket.

Little's first community activities were through an outreach program to the Lincoln Elementary Schools; beginning in 1980 and continuing today, Little has offered children a unique opportunity for learning firsthand about their town's history and historic development, its people, its landscape, industries and technologies. In the early 1970's, she

worked with the town of Lincoln's Planning Board and Conservation Commission, where she advocated for the inclusion of historic and archaeological sites in the town's planning documents. As a result, a survey of historic sites was conducted and a documented site map was prepared.

Little has also volunteered for the Nantucket Historical Association. In 1978 she was co-coordinator of the survey of Nantucket's prehistoric sites under a survey and planning grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission; the resulting survey tripled the number of sites identified in the Commission's inventory for Nantucket. As the vice chair of the Archaeology Committee of the Nantucket Historical Association, she helped direct efforts toward site identification and away from excavation. "In a low-key way," says James Lentowski of the Nantucket Conservation Foundation, "Betty has raised the

consciousness of everyone here on Nantucket." She has worked with Indian artifact collectors on the island, which has led to the reporting of many archaeological sites. She has also worked with the Nantucket Conservation Foundation and Land Bank to identify local areas of archaeological importance.

Little has also found time for a term as President of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society and is currently editor of its semiannual *Bulletin*. Her interest in archaeology eventually took her back to the classroom - she earned a master's degree in anthropology from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in 1985. Through all her activities, Little has dedicated herself to involving others - for it is only by involving others, she believes, that you can make preservation work.

Professor Barbara Luedtke, right, and Cynthia Young, left, discuss a test pit during an archaeological project at Nantucket in 1978. Barbara conducted a Field School and site survey at the Nantucket UMass Field Station (Luedtke 1980, in *Widening Horizons*, ed. by Hoffman, pp. 95-129. M.A.S.), in conjunction with a survey of the island's archaeological collections and known sites by the Nantucket Historical Association (NHA) (Little 1980, in *Widening Horizons*, pp. 75-79). Mrs. Young, an



M.A.S. member at Nantucket and director of the Archaeology Department, NHA, 1976-1981, and Elizabeth A. Little served as co-coordinators of the NHA survey.

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DR. ELIZABETH A. LITTLE (Ph.D. physics, MIT 1954; M.A. anthropology, UMass-Amherst 1984), is curator of prehistoric artifacts at the Nantucket Historical Association, a former president of the M.A.S. and current editor of the Bulletin.

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DR. MAURICE ROBBINS, a former president, editor and museum director of the society, celebrated his 90th birthday this year.

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NOTES TO CONTRIBUTORS

The Editor solicits for publication original contributions related to the archaeology of Massachusetts. Authors of articles submitted to the Bulletin of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society are requested to follow the style guide for American Antiquity (48:429-442 [1983]). Manuscripts sent to the Editor for evaluation and comment should have margins of 3 centimeters (5/4 inch) on all edges. Corrasable paper should NOT be used. Typing should be on one side of paper only with at least double spacing. Proper heading and bibliographic material must be included.

Authors with IBM-PC compatibles are encouraged to mail floppy disks containing their files to the editor. Complex tables should be submitted camera-ready.

Bibliographic references should be listed alphabetically by author and presented as follows:

Gookin, Daniel

1970 Historical Collections of the Indians of New England (1674).

Jeffrey H. Fiske, annotator. Towtaid, Worcester.

Several references by the same author should be listed chronologically by year. Reference citations in the text should include the author's name, date of publication, and the page or figure number, all enclosed in parentheses, as follows: (Bowman and Zeoli 1973:27) or (Ritchie 1965: Fig. 12).

All illustrations, called figures, should be submitted as originals. Each figure should fit within the space available on a Bulletin page, which is 17 cm by 23 cm (6 & 1/2 x 9 inches), allowing for margins. Full, half or quarter page figures should be planned carefully, allowing space for captions. Figures must be referred to in the text and are to be numbered in their order of reference, with their number placed lightly on the margins of their reverse sides. Every item in each figure and each person should be identified. For photographs of individuals, a signed release must be included. All lettering must be legible and have high contrast. No pencil drawings are acceptable. Photos must be glossy prints with high contrast. Scales with dimensions should be included with all figures for which they are appropriate. Captions should be typed on a separate sheet and numbered to correspond to the figures.

Dimensions and distances should be given in metric units or in metric units and English units. If feet and inches are used, they are to be spelled out.

